A bill for an act

relating to economic development; encouraging job creation; providing an angel investment credit and a Minnesota business investment company credit; making changes to various income tax provisions; limiting the level of budgeted spending to the amount collected in the prior biennium; providing for interlocutory appeal on the question of class certification; modifying the limitation provisions governing merchant actions; modifying certain private remedies; modifying environmental permitting and review provisions; requiring reports; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 8.31, subdivision 3a, by adding a subdivision; 115.07; 116D.04, subdivision 2a; 290.06, subdivision 1; 290.068; 290.0921, subdivisions 1, 3; 541.05; Minnesota Statutes 2009 Supplement, sections 290.01, subdivisions 19b, 19d; 290.06, subdivision 2c; 290.091, subdivision 2; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 116J; 290; 297I; 540; 541.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

ARTICLE 1

ANGEL INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

Section 1. **[116J.8737] ANGEL INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(b) "Qualified small business" means a business that satisfies all of the following conditions:

(1) the business has its headquarters in Minnesota;

(2) at least 51 percent of the business's employees are employed in Minnesota, and 51 percent of the business's total payroll is paid or incurred in the state;

(3) the business is engaged in, or is committed to engage in, innovation in Minnesota in one of the following:

(i) using proprietary technology to add value to a product, process, or service in a qualified high-technology field;

(ii) researching or developing a proprietary product, process, or service in a qualified high-technology field;

(iii) researching, developing, or producing a new proprietary technology for use in the fields of tourism, forestry, mining, or transportation; or

(iv) qualified green manufacturing;

(4) other than the activities specifically listed in clause (3), the business is not engaged in real estate development, insurance, banking, lending, lobbying, political consulting, information technology consulting, wholesale or retail trade, leisure, hospitality, transportation, construction, ethanol production from corn, or professional services provided by attorneys, accountants, business consultants, physicians, or health care consultants;

(5) the business has fewer than 25 employees;

(6) if the business has five or more employees as measured on a full-time equivalent basis, the business must pay its employees in excess of the first five annual wages at least 175 percent of the federal poverty guideline for the year for a family of four;

(7) the business has not been in operation for more than ten consecutive years;

(8) the business has not received more than $4,000,000 in qualifying investments that have qualified for and received tax credits under this section;

(9) the business is not a member of a unitary group that employs more than 100 employees; and

(10) the business has not previously received private equity investments of more than $2,000,000.

(c) "Qualified high-technology field" includes, but is not limited to, aerospace, agricultural processing, alternative energy, environmental engineering, food technology, cellulosic ethanol, information technology, materials science technology, nanotechnology, telecommunications, biotechnology, medical device products, pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, biologicals, and veterinary science.

(d) "Proprietary technology" means the technical innovations that are unique and legally owned or licensed by a business and includes, without limitation, those innovations that are patented, patent pending, a subject of trade secrets, or copyrighted.

(e) "Qualified green manufacturing" means a business whose primary business activity is production of products, processes, methods, technologies, or services, excluding consulting, intended to do one or more of the following:

(1) increase the use of energy from renewable sources, as defined in section 216B.1691;

(2) increase the energy efficiency of the electric utility-producing infrastructure system or to increase energy conservation related to electricity or other utility use, as provided in sections 216B.2401 and 216B.241;

(3) monitor, protect, restore, and preserve the quality of surface waters; and

(4) expand use of biofuels, including expanding the feasibility or reducing the cost of producing biofuels or the types of equipment, machinery, and vehicles that can use biofuels.

(f) "Qualified taxpayer" means an accredited investor, within the meaning of Regulation D of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Code of Federal Regulations, title 17, section 230.501(a), who:

(1) does not own, control, or hold power to vote 20 percent or more of the outstanding securities of the qualified small business in which the eligible investment is proposed; or

(2) does not receive more than 50 percent of the taxpayer's gross annual income from the qualified small business in which the eligible investment is proposed.

A member of the family of a taxpayer disqualified by this subdivision is not eligible for a credit under this section.

(g)(1) "Qualified angel investment network fund" means a pooled investment fund that:

(i) invests in qualified small businesses;

(ii) is organized as a pass-through entity; and

(iii) has at least three separate investors, all of whom are qualified taxpayers as defined in paragraph (f), and that own no more than 50 percent of the outstanding ownership interests in the fund; and

(2) for purposes of determining the number of investors and the ownership interest of an investor under this paragraph, the ownership interests of an investor include those of the investor's family, and any corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or trust in which the investor or the investor's family has a controlling equity interest or exercises management control. Investments in the fund may consist of equity investments or notes that pay interest or other fixed amounts, or any combination of both.

(h) "Qualified investment" means either a cash investment of a minimum of:

(1) $10,000 in a calendar year by a qualified taxpayer; or

(2) $50,000 in a calendar year by a qualified angel investment network fund.

The qualified investment in a qualified small business must be in exchange for common stock, a partnership or membership interest, preferred stock, debt with

mandatory conversion to equity, or an equivalent ownership interest as determined by the commissioner.

(i) "Family" means a family member within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code, section 267(c)(4).

Subd. 2. **Certification of small businesses.** (a) Businesses may apply to the commissioner for certification as a qualified small business. The application must be in the form and be made under the procedures specified by the commissioner, accompanied by an application fee of $150. The application for certification must be made available on the department's Web site by August 1, 2010. Applications for subsequent years' certification must be made available on the department's Web site by November 1 of the preceding year. Application fees collected are appropriated to the commissioner to be used for personnel and administrative expenses related to administering the program.

(b) A business seeking certification must submit an application for each taxable year for which the business desires certification. If a qualified small business receives a qualified investment for which tax credits are allocated, the business must annually submit a certified small business report in the form required by the commissioner with the required fee no later than February 1 for the two years subsequent to the last qualified investment. Failure to file an annual report as required under this subdivision results in a fine of $500 and revocation of certification.

(c) The commissioner must maintain a list of businesses certified under this subdivision and make the list accessible to the public on the department's Web site.

Subd. 3. **Certification of qualified taxpayers.** (a) Taxpayers may apply to the commissioner for certification as a qualified taxpayer. The application must be in the form and be made under the procedures specified by the commissioner, accompanied by an application fee of $350. The application for certification of qualified taxpayers must be made available on the department's Web site by August 1, 2010. Applications for subsequent years' certification must be made available on the department's Web site by November 1 of the preceding year. Application fees are appropriated to the commissioner for personnel and administrative expenses related to administering the program.

(b) A qualified taxpayer seeking certification must submit an application for each taxable year in which the qualified taxpayer seeks certification. If a qualified taxpayer receives tax credits under this section, a qualified taxpayer must submit an angel investor annual report in the form required by the commissioner with the required fee no later than February 1 of each year for two years subsequent to the last allocation of tax credits. Failure to file an angel investor annual report as required under this subdivision results in the revocation of tax credits. Once a qualified taxpayer has filed the required annual

reports and accompanying fees for two subsequent years following allocation of tax credits and complied with all other requirements for that allocation, the tax credits are no longer subject to revocation.

Subd. 4. **Certification of qualified angel investment network funds.** (a) Angel investment network funds may apply to the commissioner of employment and economic development for certification as a qualified angel investment network fund. The application must be in the form and be made under the procedures specified by the commissioner, accompanied by an application fee of $1,000. The application for certification of qualified angel investor network funds must be made available on the department's Web site by August 1, 2010. Applications for subsequent years' certification must be made available by November 1 of the preceding year. Application fees collected are appropriated to the commissioner to be used for personnel and administrative expenses related to administering the program.

(b) A qualified angel investment network fund seeking certification must submit an application for each taxable year for which the angel investment network fund seeks certification. If any member of a qualified angel investment network fund receives tax credits under this section for qualified investments made by the fund, the qualified angel investment network fund must annually submit an angel investor annual report in the form required by the commissioner with the required fee no later than February 1 of each year for two years subsequent to the last allocation of credits. Failure to file an angel investor annual report as required under this subdivision results in revocation of tax credits. Once a qualified angel investment network fund has filed the required annual reports and accompanying fees for two subsequent years following allocation of tax credits and complied with all other requirements for that allocation, the tax credits are no longer subject to revocation.

Subd. 5. **Credit allowed.** (a) A qualified taxpayer or angel investor network fund is allowed a credit for investment in a qualified small business in the amount determined by the certification allocated by the commissioner against the tax imposed by chapter 290. The commissioner must not allocate more than $5,000,000 in credits to qualified taxpayers or angel investment network funds in calendar year 2010, and not more than $10,000,000 in credits in calendar year 2011 and each calendar year thereafter. Any portion of a year's credits that is not allocated by the commissioner does not cancel and may be carried forward to the subsequent year until all credits have been allocated. Applications for tax investment credits must be made available on the department's Web site by September 1, 2010, and the department must begin accepting applications

by September 1, 2010. Applications for subsequent years must be made available by November 1 of the preceding year.

(b) Tax investment credits must be allocated to qualified taxpayers or angel investor network funds in the order that the tax credit request applications are filed with the department. The investment specified in the application must be made within 60 days of the allocation of the credits. If the investment is not made within 60 days, the credits are deemed revoked. A qualified taxpayer or angel investor network fund that fails to invest as specified in the application, within 60 days from allocation of the credits, must notify the department of the failure to invest within five business days of the expiration of the 60-day investment period.

(c) All tax credit request applications filed with the department on the same day must be treated as having been filed contemporaneously. In the event that two or more qualified taxpayers or angel investment network funds file tax credit request applications on the same day, and the aggregate amount of credit allocation claims exceeds the aggregate limit of credit under this section or the lesser amount of credits that remain unallocated on that day, then the credits must be allocated among the qualified taxpayers or angel investment network funds who filed on that day on a pro rata basis with respect to the amounts claimed. The pro rata allocation for any one qualified taxpayer or angel investment network fund is the product obtained by multiplying a fraction, the numerator of which is the amount of the credit allocation claim filed on behalf of a qualified taxpayer and the denominator of which is the total of all credit allocation claims filed on behalf of all applicants on that day, by the amount of credits that remain unallocated on that day for the fiscal year.

(d) The commissioner must notify the commissioner of revenue of every credit allocated and every credit revoked under this section.

Subd. 6. **Annual reports.** (a) By February 1 of each year for two years subsequent to the last allocation of credits, qualified small businesses, qualified taxpayers, and qualified angel investment network funds must submit an annual report and a filing fee of $100. All report fees collected are appropriated to the commissioner for personnel and administrative expense related to administering the program.

(b) Qualified small businesses must certify to the department in the form required by the commissioner that it satisfies the following requirements:

(1) the business has its headquarters in Minnesota;

(2) at least 51 percent of the business's employees are employed in Minnesota, and 51 percent of the business's total payroll is paid or incurred in the state;

(3) that the business is engaged in, or is committed to engage in, innovation in Minnesota as defined under subdivision 1; and

(4) that the business meets the payroll requirements in subdivision 1, paragraph (b), clause (6).

(c) Qualified taxpayers must certify to the department in the form required by the commissioner that the investor satisfies the following requirements:

(1) the taxpayer continues to meet the requirements of subdivision 1, paragraph (f); and

(2) that the taxpayer continues to remain invested in the qualified small business as required by section 290.0692, subdivision 3.

(d) Qualified angel investment network funds must certify to the department in the form required by the commissioner that the investor satisfies the following requirements:

(1) the taxpayer continues to meet the requirements of subdivision 1, paragraph (g); and

(2) that the angel investment network fund continues to remain invested in the qualified small business as required by section 290.0692, subdivision 3.

Subd. 7. **Rulemaking exception.** The commissioner's actions in establishing procedures and requirements and in making determinations and certifications to administer this section are not a rule for purposes of chapter 14, are not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act contained in chapter 14, and are not subject to section 14.386.

Subd. 8. **Report.** Beginning in 2011, the commissioner must annually report by March 15 to the chairs of the committees having jurisdiction over taxes and economic development in the senate and the house of representatives on the tax credits issued under this section. The report must include:

(1) the number and amount of the credits issued;

(2) the recipients of the credits;

(3) the number and type of each business certified as a qualified small business;

(4) to the extent determinable, the total amount of investment generated by these credits; and

(5) any other information relevant to evaluating the effect of these credits.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 2. **[290.0692] ANGEL INVESTMENT CREDIT; CREDIT ALLOWED; LIMITATIONS; HOLDING PERIOD; CARRYOVER.**

Subdivision 1. **Credit allowed.** A qualified taxpayer is allowed a credit against the tax imposed under this chapter for investments made in the year in a qualified small business as defined under section 116J.8737. The credit equals 25 percent of the qualified taxpayer's investment in the business, but not to exceed the lesser of:

(1) the liability for tax under this chapter, including the applicable alternative minimum tax, but excluding the minimum fee under section 290.0922; and

(2) the amount of the certificate provided to the qualified taxpayer under section 116J.8737.

Subd. 2. **Limitations.** No taxpayer may receive more than $125,000 in credits under this section in any one year.

Subd. 3. **Holding periods.** The credit is allowed only for investments for which a credit has been allocated by the commissioner of employment and economic development under section 116J.8737. Any credit taken by a taxpayer must be repaid, and any unused credits must be canceled, if the investment in the qualified small business is not held for at least three years. The three-year holding period does not apply if:

(1) the investment by the qualified taxpayer becomes worthless before the end of the three-year period;

(2) 80 percent or more of the assets of the qualified small business is sold before the end of the three-year period;

(3) the qualified small business is sold before the end of the three-year period; or

(4) the qualified small business's common stock begins trading on a public exchange before the end of the three-year period.

Subd. 4. **Proportional credits.** Each pass-through entity must provide each investor a statement indicating the investor's share of the credit amount certified to the pass-through entity based on its share of the pass-through entity's assets at the time of the qualified investment.

Subd. 5. **Carryover.** If the amount of the credit under this subdivision for any taxable year exceeds the liability for tax, the excess is a credit carryover to each of the ten succeeding taxable years. The entire amount of the excess unused credit for the taxable year must be carried first to the earliest of the taxable years to which the credit may be carried. The amount of the unused credit that may be added under this subdivision may not exceed the taxpayer's liability for tax less the credit for the taxable year.

Subd. 6. **Transfer of credits.** Any taxpayer who has not had liability under this chapter for the immediate past three taxable years and does not have anticipated liability for the current taxable year may transfer the entirety of the credit to any natural person of net worth, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, title 17, section 230.501(a). No person is entitled to a refund for the interest created under this subdivision. Only the full credit for any one taxpayer may be transferred and the interest may be transferred only one time. A credit acquired by transfer is subject to the limitations prescribed in this section.

Documentation of any credit acquired by transfer must be provided by the taxpayer in the form required by the commissioner.

Subd. 7. **Audit powers.** Notwithstanding the certification eligibility issued by the commissioner of employment and economic development under section 116J.8737, the commissioner may utilize any audit and examination powers under chapters 270C or 289A to the extent necessary to verify that the taxpayer is eligible for the credit and to assess for the amount of any improperly claimed credit.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for investments made after July 1, 2010, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009, and only applies to investments for which a credit has been allocated by the commissioner of employment and economic development.

ARTICLE 2

MINNESOTA BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY CREDIT

Section 1. **[116J.665] MINNESOTA BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY CREDIT.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(b) "Affiliate" means:

(1) any person who, directly or indirectly, beneficially owns, controls, or holds power to vote 15 percent or more of the outstanding voting securities or other voting ownership interest of a Minnesota business investment company or insurance company; or

(2) any person, 15 percent or more of whose outstanding voting securities or other voting ownership interests are directly or indirectly beneficially owned, controlled, or held with power to vote by a Minnesota business investment company or insurance company.

Notwithstanding this subdivision, an investment by a participating investor in a Minnesota business investment company pursuant to an allocation of premium tax credits under this section does not cause that Minnesota business investment company to become an affiliate of that participating investor.

(c) "Allocation date" means the date on which credits under section 297I.23 are allocated to the participating investors of a Minnesota business investment company under this section.

(d) "Designated capital" means an amount of money that:

(1) is invested by a participating investor in a Minnesota business investment company; and

(2) fully funds the purchase price of either or both participating investor's equity interest in a Minnesota business investment company or a qualified debt instrument issued by a Minnesota business investment company.

(e) "Minnesota business investment company" means a partnership, corporation, trust, or limited liability company, organized on a for-profit basis, that:

(1) has its principal office located or is headquartered in Minnesota;

(2) has as its primary business activity the investment of cash in qualified businesses; and

(3) is certified by the Department of Employment and Economic Development as meeting the criteria in this section.

(f) "Participating investor" means any insurance company as defined in section 60A.02, subdivision 4, excluding health maintenance organizations, that contributes designated capital pursuant to this section.

(g) "Person" means any natural person or entity, including, but not limited to, a corporation, general or limited partnership, trust, or limited liability company.

(h)(1) "Qualified business" means a business that is independently owned and operated and meets all of the following requirements:

(i) it is headquartered in Minnesota, its principal business operations are located in this state, and at least 80 percent of its employees are located in Minnesota;

(ii) it has no more than 100 employees;

(iii) it is not engaged in:

(A) professional services provided by accountants, doctors, or lawyers;

(B) banking or lending;

(C) real estate development;

(D) insurance;

(E) oil and gas exploration;

(F) direct gambling activities;

(G) retail sales; or

(H) making loans to or investments in a Minnesota business investment company or an affiliate; and

(iv) it is not a franchise of and has no financial relationship with a Minnesota business investment company or any affiliate of a Minnesota business investment company prior to a Minnesota business investment company's first qualified investment in the business;

(2) a business classified as a qualified business at the time of the first qualified investment in the business remains classified as a qualified business and may receive continuing qualified investments from any Minnesota business investment company.

Continuing investments constitute qualified investments even though the business may not meet the definition of a qualified business at the time of the continuing investments.

(i) "Qualified debt instrument" means a debt instrument issued by a Minnesota business investment company which meets all of the following criteria:

(1) it is issued at par value or a premium; and

(2) it has an original maturity date of at least four years from the date of issuance, and a repayment schedule which is not faster than a level principal amortization over four years.

(j) "Qualified distribution" means any distribution or payment made by a Minnesota business investment company in connection with any of the following:

(1) costs and expenses of forming, syndicating, and organizing the Minnesota business investment company, including fees paid for professional services, and the costs of financing and insuring the obligations of a Minnesota business investment company, provided no payment is made to a participating investor;

(2) an annual management fee not to exceed one percent of designated capital on an annual basis to offset the costs and expenses of managing and operating a Minnesota business investment company;

(3) reasonable and necessary fees in accordance with industry custom for ongoing professional services, including, but not limited to, legal and accounting services related to the operation of a Minnesota business investment company, not including lobbying or governmental relations;

(4) any increase or projected increase in federal or state taxes, including penalties and related interest of the equity owners of a Minnesota business investment company resulting from the earnings or other tax liability of a Minnesota business investment company to the extent that the increase is related to the ownership, management, or operation of a Minnesota business investment company.

(5) Payments of principal and interest to holders of qualified debt instruments issued by a Minnesota business investment company may be made without restriction whatsoever.

(k) "Qualified investment" means the investment of money by a Minnesota business investment company in a qualified business for the purchase of any debt, debt participation, equity, or hybrid security of any nature and description whatsoever, including a debt instrument or security that has the characteristics of debt but that provides for conversion into equity or equity participation instruments such as options or warrants. Any repayment of a qualified investment prior to one year from the date of issuance shall result in the amount of the qualified investment being reduced by 50 percent for purposes of the cumulative investment requirement in subdivision 8, paragraph (d).

(l) "State premium tax liability" means any liability incurred by an insurance company under chapter 297I or in the case of a repeal or a rate reduction by the state of the liability imposed by chapter 297I, any other tax liability imposed upon an insurance company by the state, other than the tax imposed on taxpayers under section 290.05.

Subd. 2. **Certification.** (a) The department must provide a standardized format for applying for the business investment credit under section 297I.23, and for certification as a Minnesota business investment company.

(b) An applicant for certification as a Minnesota business investment company is required to:

(1) file an application with the department that includes, without limitation, a statement that the applicant has read and understands the requirements of this chapter;

(2) pay a nonrefundable application fee of $7,500 at the time of filing the application;

(3) submit as part of its application an audited balance sheet that contains an unqualified opinion of an independent certified public accountant issued not more than 35 days before the application date that states that the applicant has an equity capitalization of $500,000 or more in the form of unencumbered cash, marketable securities, or other liquid assets; and

(4) have at least two principals or persons, at least one of which is primarily located in Minnesota, employed or engaged to manage the funds who each have a minimum of five years of money management experience in the venture capital or business industry.

(c) The department may certify partnerships, corporations, trusts, or limited liability companies, organized on a for-profit basis, which submit an application to be designated as a Minnesota business investment company if the applicant is located, headquartered, and licensed or registered to conduct business in Minnesota, has as its primary business activity the investment of cash in qualified businesses, and meets the other criteria in this section.

(d) The department must review the organizational documents of each applicant for certification and the business history of each applicant and determine whether the applicant has satisfied the requirements of this section.

(e) Within 45 days after the receipt of an application, the department must issue the certification or refuse the certification and communicate in detail to the applicant the grounds for refusal, including suggestions for the removal of such grounds.

(f) The department must begin accepting applications to become a Minnesota business investment company as defined under section 297I.23 by August 1, 2010.

(g) All certification fees collected by the department under this chapter are appropriated to the commissioner to be used for personnel and administrative expenses related to administering the program.

Subd. 3. **Requirements.** (a) A participating investor or affiliate of a participating investor must not, directly or indirectly:

(1) beneficially own, whether through rights, options, convertible interest, or otherwise, 15 percent or more of the voting securities or other voting ownership interest of a Minnesota business investment company;

(2) manage a Minnesota business investment company; or

(3) control the direction of investments for a Minnesota business investment company.

(b) A Minnesota business investment company may obtain one or more guaranties, indemnities, bonds, insurance policies, or other payment undertakings for the benefit of its participating investors from any entity, except that in no case can more than one participating investor of a Minnesota business investment company on an aggregate basis with all affiliates of the participating investor be entitled to provide the guaranties, indemnities, bonds, insurance policies, or other payment undertakings in favor of the participating investors of a Minnesota business investment company and its affiliates in this state.

(c) This subdivision does not preclude a participating investor or other party from exercising its legal rights and remedies, including, without limitation, interim management of a Minnesota business investment company, in the event that a Minnesota business investment company is in default of its statutory obligations or its contractual obligations to the participating investor or other party, or from monitoring a Minnesota business investment company to ensure its compliance with this section or disallowing any investments that have not been approved by the department.

(d) The department may contract with an independent third party to review, investigate, and certify that the applications comply with this section.

Subd. 4. **Aggregate limitations on investment tax credits; allocation.** (a) The aggregate amount of investment tax credits to be allocated to all participating investors of Minnesota business investment companies under this section shall not exceed $100,000,000. No Minnesota business investment company, on an aggregate basis with its affiliates, may file credit allocation claims that exceed $100,000,000.

(b) Credits must be allocated to participating investors in the order that the credit allocation claims are filed with the department, provided that all credit allocation claims filed with the department on the same day must be treated as having been filed contemporaneously. Any credit allocation claims filed with the department prior to the initial credit allocation claim filing date are deemed to have been filed on the initial credit allocation claim filing date. The department must set the initial credit allocation claim

filing date not less than 120 days and not greater than 150 days after the department begins accepting applications for certification.

(c) In the event that two or more Minnesota business investment companies file credit allocation claims with the department on behalf of their respective participating investors on the same day, and the aggregate amount of credit allocation claims exceeds the aggregate limit of investment tax credits under this section or the lesser amount of credits that remain unallocated on that day, then the department must allocate the credits among the participating investors who filed on that day on a pro rata basis with respect to the amounts claimed. The pro rata allocation for any one participating investor is the product obtained by multiplying a fraction, the numerator of which is the amount of the credit allocation claim filed on behalf of a participating investor and the denominator of which is the total of all credit allocation claims filed on behalf of all participating investors on that day, by the aggregate limit of credits under this section or the lesser amount of credits that remain unallocated on that day.

(d) Within ten business days after the department receives a credit allocation claim filed by a Minnesota business investment company on behalf of one or more of its participating investors, the department must notify the Minnesota business investment company of the amount of credits allocated to each of the participating investors of that Minnesota business investment company. In the event a Minnesota business investment company does not receive an investment of designated capital from each participating investor required to earn the amount of credits allocated to the participating investor within ten business days of the Minnesota business investment company's receipt of notice of allocation, then it shall notify the department on or before the next business day, and the credits allocated to the participating investor of the Minnesota business investment company are forfeited. The department must then reallocate those forfeited credits among the participating investors of the other Minnesota business investment companies on a pro rata basis with respect to the credit allocation claims filed on behalf of the participating investors. The commissioner is authorized, but not required, to levy a fine of not more than $50,000 on any participating investor that does not invest the full amount of designated capital required to fund the credits allocated to it by the department in accordance with the credit allocation claim filed on its behalf.

(e) No participating investor, on an aggregate basis with its affiliates, may file an allocation claim for more than 25 percent of the maximum amount of investment tax credits authorized under this subdivision, regardless of whether the claim is made in connection with one or more Minnesota business investment companies.

Subd. 5. **Requirements for continuance of certification.** (a) To maintain its certification, a Minnesota business investment company must make qualified investments as follows:

(1) within two years after the allocation date, a Minnesota business investment company must invest an amount equal to at least 35 percent of its designated capital in qualified investments; and

(2) within three years after the allocation date, a Minnesota business investment company must invest an amount equal to at least 50 percent of its designated capital in qualified investments.

(b) Prior to making a proposed qualified investment in a specific business, a Minnesota business investment company must request from the department a written determination that the proposed investment qualifies as a qualified investment in a qualified business. The department must notify a Minnesota business investment company within ten business days from the receipt of a request of its determination and an explanation thereof. If the department fails to notify the Minnesota business investment company of its determination within the ten-business-day period, the proposed investment is deemed a qualified investment in a qualified business. If the department determines that the proposed investment does not meet the definition of a qualified investment or qualified business, or both, the department may nevertheless consider the proposed investment a qualified investment and, if necessary, the business a qualified business, if the department determines that the proposed investment furthers state economic development.

(c) All designated capital not invested in qualified investments by a Minnesota business investment company shall be held or invested in such manner as the Minnesota business investment company, in its discretion, deems appropriate. Designated capital and proceeds of designated capital returned to a Minnesota business investment company after being originally invested in qualified investments may be invested again in qualified investments and the investment shall count toward the requirements of paragraph (a) with respect to making investments of designated capital in qualified investments.

(d) If, within four years after its allocation date, a Minnesota business investment company has not invested at least 60 percent of its designated capital in qualified investments, the Minnesota business investment company must not be permitted to pay management fees.

(e) If, within six years after its allocation date, a Minnesota business investment company has not invested at least 100 percent of its designated capital in qualified investments, the Minnesota business investment company must not be permitted to pay management fees.

(f) A Minnesota business investment company may not invest more than 15 percent of its designated capital in any one qualified business without the specific approval of the department.

(g) For purposes of calculating the investment percentage thresholds of paragraph (a), the cumulative amount of all qualified investments made by a Minnesota business investment company from the allocation date must be considered.

Subd. 6. **Minnesota business investment company reporting requirements.** (a) Each Minnesota business investment company must report the following to the department in the form designated by the commissioner:

(1) as soon as practicable after the receipt of designated capital:

(i) the name of each participating investor from which the designated capital was received, including such participating investor's insurance tax identification number;

(ii) the amount of each participating investor's investment of designated capital; and

(iii) the date on which the designated capital was received;

(2) on an annual basis, on or before January 31 of each year:

(i) the amount of the Minnesota business investment company's designated capital that remains to be invested in qualified investments at the end of the immediately preceding taxable year;

(ii) whether or not the Minnesota business investment company has invested more than 15 percent of its total designated capital in any one business;

(iii) all qualified investments that the Minnesota business investment company has made in the previous taxable year, including the number of employees of each qualified business in which it has made investments at the time of such investment, and as of December 1 of the preceding taxable year; and

(iv) for any qualified business where the Minnesota business investment company no longer has an investment, the Minnesota business investment company must provide employment figures for that company as of the last day before the investment was terminated;

(3) other information that the department may reasonably request that helps the department ascertain the impact of the Minnesota business investment company program both directly and indirectly on the economy of the state including, but not limited to, the number of jobs created by qualified businesses that have received qualified investments;

(4) within 90 days of the close of its fiscal year, annual audited financial statements of the Minnesota business investment company, which must include the opinion of an independent certified public accountant; and

(5) an agreed upon procedures report or equivalent regarding the operations of the Minnesota business investment company.

(b) A Minnesota business investment company must pay to the department an annual, nonrefundable certification fee of $5,000 on or before April 1, or $10,000 if later. No annual certification fee is required if the payment date for the fee is within six months of the date a Minnesota business investment company is first certified by the department.

(c) Upon satisfying the requirements of subdivision 5, paragraph (a), clause (2), a Minnesota business investment company must provide the notice to the department and the department shall, within 60 days of receipt of the notice, either confirm that the Minnesota business investment company has satisfied the requirements of subdivision 5, paragraph (a), clause (2), as of such date or provide notice of noncompliance and an explanation of any existing deficiencies. If the department does not provide notification within 60 days, the Minnesota business investment company is deemed to have met the requirements of subdivision 5, paragraph (a), clause (2).

Subd. 7. **Distributions.** (a) A Minnesota business investment company may make qualified distributions at any time. In order for a Minnesota business investment company to make a distribution other than a qualified distribution to its equity holders, the cumulative amount of all qualified investments of the Minnesota business investment company must equal or exceed 100 percent of its designated capital.

(b) The state shall receive ten percent of the net profits on qualified investments. For purposes of this paragraph, "net profits on qualified investments" means the amount of money returned to the Minnesota business investment company in exchange for or repayment of its qualified investments in qualified businesses in excess of the amount invested by the Minnesota business investment company in qualified investments. The net profits on qualified investments are the aggregate of all of the Minnesota business investment company's qualified investments where gains on qualified investments are netted against losses on qualified investments.

Subd. 8. **Decertification.** (a) The department shall conduct an annual review of each Minnesota business investment company to determine if a Minnesota business investment company is abiding by the requirements of certification and to ensure that no investment has been made in violation of this section. The cost of the annual review must be paid by each Minnesota business investment company according to a reasonable fee schedule adopted by the department.

(b) Any material violation of this section, including any material misrepresentation made to the department in connection with the application process, is grounds for decertification of a Minnesota business investment company and the disallowance of

credits under section 297I.23, provided that in all instances the department shall provide notice to the Minnesota business investment company of the grounds of the proposed decertification and the opportunity to cure the violation before any decertification becomes effective.

(c) The department shall send written notice of decertification to the commissioner of revenue and to the address of each participating investor whose tax credit is subject to recapture or forfeiture, using the address shown on the last filing submitted to the department.

(d) Once a Minnesota business investment company has invested an amount cumulatively equal to 100 percent of its designated capital in qualified investments, provided that the Minnesota business investment company has met all other requirements under this section as of such date, the Minnesota business investment company is no longer subject to regulation by the department or the reporting requirements under subdivision 6. Upon receiving certification by a Minnesota business investment company that it has invested an amount equal to 100 percent of its designated capital, the department shall notify a Minnesota business investment company within 60 days that it has or has not met the requirements, with a reason for the determination if it has not. If the department does not provide notification of deregulation within 60 days, the Minnesota business investment company is deemed to have met the requirements and is deemed to no longer be subject to regulation by the department.

Subd. 9. **Registration requirements.** All investments by participating investors for which tax credits are awarded under this section must be registered or specifically exempt from registration.

Subd. 10. **Rulemaking.** The commissioner's actions in establishing procedures and requirements and in making determinations and certifications to administer this section are not a rule for purposes of chapter 14, are not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act contained in chapter 14, and are not subject to section 14.386.

Subd. 11. **Reports to governor and legislature.** The department shall make an annual report by March 15 of each year to the governor and the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions having jurisdiction over taxes and economic development. The report must include:

(1) the number of Minnesota business investment companies holding designated capital;

(2) the amount of designated capital invested in each Minnesota business investment company;

(3) the cumulative amount that each Minnesota business investment company has invested as of January 1, 2011, and the cumulative total each year thereafter;

(4) the cumulative amount of follow-on capital that the investments of each Minnesota business investment company have created in terms of capital invested in qualified businesses at the same time or subsequent to investments made by a Minnesota business investment company in such businesses by sources other than Minnesota business investment companies;

(5) the total amount of investment tax credits applied under this section for each year;

(6) the performance of each Minnesota business investment company with regard to the requirements for continued certification;

(7) the classification of the companies in which each Minnesota business investment company has invested according to industrial sector and size of company;

(8) the gross number of jobs created by investments made by each Minnesota business investment company and the number of jobs retained;

(9) the location of the companies in which each Minnesota business investment company has invested;

(10) those Minnesota business investment companies that have been decertified, including the reasons for decertification; and

(11) other related information as necessary to evaluate the effect of this section on economic development.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 2. **[297I.23] MINNESOTA BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY CREDIT.**

Subdivision 1. **Credit allowed.** (a) A participating investor as defined under section 116J.665, subdivision 1, is allowed a credit against the tax imposed in this chapter equal to 80 percent of the participating investor's investment of designated capital in a Minnesota business investment company. Beginning March 1, 2015, and ending with the tax return due March 1, 2018, a participating investor may claim yearly an amount equal to 20 percent of the participating investor's investment of designated capital against the tax liability under this chapter for the preceding calendar year.

(b) The credit for any calendar year must not exceed the liability for tax. If the amount of the credit determined under this section for any calendar year exceeds the liability for tax, the excess is an investment tax credit carryover to each of the succeeding calendar years and must be carried forward to each succeeding calendar year until the entire carryforward has been credited against the participating investor's liability for tax

under this chapter. Credits may be used only on an annual premium tax return filed by a participating investor.

(c) A participating investor claiming a credit under this section is not required to pay any additional retaliatory tax levied by Minnesota as a result of claiming the credit.

(d) A participating investor is not required to reduce the amount of tax passed to the insured pursuant to the state premium tax liability included by the participating investor in connection with ratemaking for any insurance contract written in this state because of a reduction in the participating investor's tax liability based on the tax credit allowed under this section.

(e) Decertification of a Minnesota business investment company under section 116J.665 may result in the disallowance and the recapture of the credit allowed under this section. The amount disallowed and recaptured must be assessed as follows:

(1) decertification of a Minnesota business investment company within two years of the allocation date of tax credits and prior to meeting the requirements of section 116J.665, subdivision 5, paragraph (a), clause (1), shall result in the disallowance of all of the credits allowed under this section;

(2) decertification of a Minnesota business investment company after two years of the allocation date of tax credits, but prior to meeting the requirements of section 116J.665, subdivision 5, paragraph (a), clause (1), results in the disallowance of one-half of all the credits allowed under this section; and

(3) decertification of Minnesota business investment company that has already met the requirements of section 116J.665, subdivision 5, paragraph (a), clause (1), does not cause the disallowance of any credits allowed under this section nor the recapture of any portion of the credits that was previously taken.

Subd. 2. **Transfers.** A participating investor must not transfer, agree to transfer, sell, or agree to sell the credit under this section until 180 days from the date on which the participating investor invested designated capital. After 180 days from the date of investment, a participating investor, or subsequent transferee, may transfer credits to another person who is subject to tax and must notify the department in the form prescribed by the commissioner within 30 days of the transfer. A person must not transfer a credit more than once in a 12-month period. No person is entitled to a refund for the interest created under this subdivision. A credit acquired by transfer is subject to the limitations prescribed in this section. Any transfer or sale of the credits does not affect the time schedule for claiming the credit. Any tax credits recaptured under this section remain the liability of the participating investor that actually applied the credit towards its tax liability.

Subd. 3. **Repayment of tax benefits received.** (a) Decertification of a Minnesota business investment company or revocation of credits under section 116J.665, results in the disallowance to certified investors of any credits for that calendar year or future calendar years and the participating investor is required to repay any credits claimed for the previous year. Repayment must be made within 60 days of the decertification or the revocation of the certification.

(b) The provisions of chapters 270C and 297I relating to audit, assessment, refund, collection, and appeals are applicable to the credits claimed and repayment required under this section. The commissioner may impose civil penalties as provided in section 297I.85, and additional tax and penalties are subject to interest at the rate provided in section 270C.40, from the date payment was due.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

ARTICLE 3

INDIVIDUAL INCOME AND CORPORATE FRANCHISE TAXES

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2009 Supplement, section 290.01, subdivision 19b, is amended to read:

Subd. 19b. **Subtractions from federal taxable income.** For individuals, estates, and trusts, there shall be subtracted from federal taxable income:

(1) net interest income on obligations of any authority, commission, or instrumentality of the United States to the extent includable in taxable income for federal income tax purposes but exempt from state income tax under the laws of the United States;

(2) if included in federal taxable income, the amount of any overpayment of income tax to Minnesota or to any other state, for any previous taxable year, whether the amount is received as a refund or as a credit to another taxable year's income tax liability;

(3) the amount paid to others, less the amount used to claim the credit allowed under section 290.0674, not to exceed $1,625 for each qualifying child in grades kindergarten to 6 and $2,500 for each qualifying child in grades 7 to 12, for tuition, textbooks, and transportation of each qualifying child in attending an elementary or secondary school situated in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, or Wisconsin, wherein a resident of this state may legally fulfill the state's compulsory attendance laws, which is not operated for profit, and which adheres to the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and chapter 363A. For the purposes of this clause, "tuition" includes fees or tuition as defined in section 290.0674, subdivision 1, clause (1). As used in this clause,

"textbooks" includes books and other instructional materials and equipment purchased or leased for use in elementary and secondary schools in teaching only those subjects legally and commonly taught in public elementary and secondary schools in this state. Equipment expenses qualifying for deduction includes expenses as defined and limited in section 290.0674, subdivision 1, clause (3). "Textbooks" does not include instructional books and materials used in the teaching of religious tenets, doctrines, or worship, the purpose of which is to instill such tenets, doctrines, or worship, nor does it include books or materials for, or transportation to, extracurricular activities including sporting events, musical or dramatic events, speech activities, driver's education, or similar programs. No deduction is permitted for any expense the taxpayer incurred in using the taxpayer's or the qualifying child's vehicle to provide such transportation for a qualifying child. For purposes of the subtraction provided by this clause, "qualifying child" has the meaning given in section 32(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(4) income as provided under section 290.0802;

(5) to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income, income realized on disposition of property exempt from tax under section 290.491;

(6) to the extent not deducted or not deductible pursuant to section 408(d)(8)(E) of the Internal Revenue Code in determining federal taxable income by an individual who does not itemize deductions for federal income tax purposes for the taxable year, an amount equal to 50 percent of the excess of charitable contributions over $500 allowable as a deduction for the taxable year under section 170(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and under the provisions of Public Law 109-1;

(7) for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2008, the amount of the federal small ethanol producer credit allowed under section 40(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code which is included in gross income under section 87 of the Internal Revenue Code;

(8) for individuals who are allowed a federal foreign tax credit for taxes that do not qualify for a credit under section 290.06, subdivision 22, an amount equal to the carryover of subnational foreign taxes for the taxable year, but not to exceed the total subnational foreign taxes reported in claiming the foreign tax credit. For purposes of this clause, "federal foreign tax credit" means the credit allowed under section 27 of the Internal Revenue Code, and "carryover of subnational foreign taxes" equals the carryover allowed under section 904(c) of the Internal Revenue Code minus national level foreign taxes to the extent they exceed the federal foreign tax credit;

(9) in each of the five tax years immediately following the tax year in which an addition is required under subdivision 19a, clause (7), or 19c, clause (15), in the case of a shareholder of a corporation that is an S corporation, an amount equal to one-fifth

of the delayed depreciation. For purposes of this clause, "delayed depreciation" means the amount of the addition made by the taxpayer under subdivision 19a, clause (7), or subdivision 19c, clause (15), in the case of a shareholder of an S corporation, minus the positive value of any net operating loss under section 172 of the Internal Revenue Code generated for the tax year of the addition. The resulting delayed depreciation cannot be less than zero;

(10) job opportunity building zone income as provided under section 469.316;

(11) to the extent included in federal taxable income, the amount of compensation paid to members of the Minnesota National Guard or other reserve components of the United States military for active service performed in Minnesota, excluding compensation for services performed under the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program. For purposes of this clause, "active service" means (i) state active service as defined in section 190.05, subdivision 5a, clause (1); (ii) federally funded state active service as defined in section 190.05, subdivision 5b; or (iii) federal active service as defined in section 190.05, subdivision 5c, but "active service" excludes service performed in accordance with section 190.08, subdivision 3;

(12) to the extent included in federal taxable income, the amount of compensation paid to Minnesota residents who are members of the armed forces of the United States or United Nations for active duty performed outside Minnesota under United States Code, title 10, section 101(d); United States Code, title 32, section 101(12); or the authority of the United Nations;

(13) an amount, not to exceed $10,000, equal to qualified expenses related to a qualified donor's donation, while living, of one or more of the qualified donor's organs to another person for human organ transplantation. For purposes of this clause, "organ" means all or part of an individual's liver, pancreas, kidney, intestine, lung, or bone marrow; "human organ transplantation" means the medical procedure by which transfer of a human organ is made from the body of one person to the body of another person; "qualified expenses" means unreimbursed expenses for both the individual and the qualified donor for (i) travel, (ii) lodging, and (iii) lost wages net of sick pay, except that such expenses may be subtracted under this clause only once; and "qualified donor" means the individual or the individual's dependent, as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code. An individual may claim the subtraction in this clause for each instance of organ donation for transplantation during the taxable year in which the qualified expenses occur;

(14) in each of the five tax years immediately following the tax year in which an addition is required under subdivision 19a, clause (8), or 19c, clause (16), in the case of a shareholder of a corporation that is an S corporation, an amount equal to one-fifth of the

addition made by the taxpayer under subdivision 19a, clause (8), or 19c, clause (16), in the case of a shareholder of a corporation that is an S corporation, minus the positive value of any net operating loss under section 172 of the Internal Revenue Code generated for the tax year of the addition. If the net operating loss exceeds the addition for the tax year, a subtraction is not allowed under this clause;

(15) to the extent included in federal taxable income, compensation paid to a service member as defined in United States Code, title 10, section 101(a)(5), for military service as defined in the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, Public Law 108-189, section 101(2);

(16) international economic development zone income as provided under section 469.325;

(17) to the extent included in federal taxable income, the amount of national service educational awards received from the National Service Trust under United States Code, title 42, sections 12601 to 12604, for service in an approved Americorps National Service program; ~~and~~

(18) to the extent included in federal taxable income, discharge of indebtedness income resulting from reacquisition of business indebtedness included in federal taxable income under section 108(i) of the Internal Revenue Code. This subtraction applies only to the extent that the income was included in net income in a prior year as a result of the addition under section 290.01, subdivision 19a, clause (16)~~.~~;

(19) to the extent included in federal taxable income, the amount of gain on the sale or exchange of small business stock. "Small business stock" means an equity interest, held directly or indirectly, in a corporation or partnership when that interest is:

(i) purchased for money or property, not including stock or payment for services;

(ii) purchased after June 30, 2010;

(iii) less than 100 percent in a corporation or less than 50 percent by vote or value in a partnership; and

(iv) in a corporation or partnership that:

(A) is a single legal entity and not part of any unitary business of the taxpayer;

(B) has fewer than 100 employees, or in the case of a corporation or partnership that is part of a unitary business, the unitary business has fewer than 100 employees;

(C) has not issued stock listed on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange, or National Association of Securities Dealers automated quotation system;

(D) in the year of purchase, had more than 50 percent of its property and payroll, as determined under section 290.191, within this state;

(E) in the year of purchase, derived less than $25,000 in gross receipts from rents, interest, dividends, and the sale of intangible investment assets;

(F) is not in a trade or business involving the performance of services in the fields of health, law, engineering, architecture, accounting, actuarial science, performing arts, consulting, athletics, financial services, brokerage services, or any trade or business where the principal asset of the trade or business is the reputation or skill of one or more of its employees;

(G) is not in a trade or business involving banking, insurance, financing, leasing, investing, or similar business;

(H) is not a regulated investment company, real estate investment trust, or real estate mortgage investment conduit;

(I) is not a cooperative; and

(J) did not liquidate its assets in whole or in part for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of this clause.

The small business stock must be held for more than five years to qualify for this subtraction;

(20) an amount not less than zero and not to exceed the applicable percent multiplied by the distributive share of income or loss, as defined in sections 703(a) and 1366(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, combined from all partnerships or S corporations in which the taxpayer materially participates, as defined in section 469(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, and that have employees or tangible property located in this state. As used in this clause, the "applicable percent" for taxable years beginning in 2011 is five percent; for taxable years beginning in 2012 is ten percent; for taxable years beginning in 2013 is 15 percent; and for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013, is 20 percent.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2009 Supplement, section 290.01, subdivision 19d, is amended to read:

Subd. 19d. **Corporations; modifications decreasing federal taxable income.** For corporations, there shall be subtracted from federal taxable income after the increases provided in subdivision 19c:

(1) the amount of foreign dividend gross-up added to gross income for federal income tax purposes under section 78 of the Internal Revenue Code;

(2) the amount of salary expense not allowed for federal income tax purposes due to claiming the work opportunity credit under section 51 of the Internal Revenue Code;

(3) any dividend (not including any distribution in liquidation) paid within the taxable year by a national or state bank to the United States, or to any instrumentality of the United States exempt from federal income taxes, on the preferred stock of the bank owned by the United States or the instrumentality;

(4) amounts disallowed for intangible drilling costs due to differences between this chapter and the Internal Revenue Code in taxable years beginning before January 1, 1987, as follows:

(i) to the extent the disallowed costs are represented by physical property, an amount equal to the allowance for depreciation under Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 290.09, subdivision 7, subject to the modifications contained in subdivision 19e; and

(ii) to the extent the disallowed costs are not represented by physical property, an amount equal to the allowance for cost depletion under Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 290.09, subdivision 8;

(5) the deduction for capital losses pursuant to sections 1211 and 1212 of the Internal Revenue Code, except that:

(i) for capital losses incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1986, capital loss carrybacks shall not be allowed;

(ii) for capital losses incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1986, a capital loss carryover to each of the 15 taxable years succeeding the loss year shall be allowed;

(iii) for capital losses incurred in taxable years beginning before January 1, 1987, a capital loss carryback to each of the three taxable years preceding the loss year, subject to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 290.16, shall be allowed; and

(iv) for capital losses incurred in taxable years beginning before January 1, 1987, a capital loss carryover to each of the five taxable years succeeding the loss year to the extent such loss was not used in a prior taxable year and subject to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 290.16, shall be allowed;

(6) an amount for interest and expenses relating to income not taxable for federal income tax purposes, if (i) the income is taxable under this chapter and (ii) the interest and expenses were disallowed as deductions under the provisions of section 171(a)(2), 265 or 291 of the Internal Revenue Code in computing federal taxable income;

(7) in the case of mines, oil and gas wells, other natural deposits, and timber for which percentage depletion was disallowed pursuant to subdivision 19c, clause (9), a reasonable allowance for depletion based on actual cost. In the case of leases the deduction must be apportioned between the lessor and lessee in accordance with rules prescribed by the commissioner. In the case of property held in trust, the allowable deduction must

be apportioned between the income beneficiaries and the trustee in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the trust, or if there is no provision in the instrument, on the basis of the trust's income allocable to each;

(8) for certified pollution control facilities placed in service in a taxable year beginning before December 31, 1986, and for which amortization deductions were elected under section 169 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended through December 31, 1985, an amount equal to the allowance for depreciation under Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 290.09, subdivision 7;

(9) amounts included in federal taxable income that are due to refunds of income, excise, or franchise taxes based on net income or related minimum taxes paid by the corporation to Minnesota, another state, a political subdivision of another state, the District of Columbia, or a foreign country or possession of the United States to the extent that the taxes were added to federal taxable income under section 290.01, subdivision 19c, clause (1), in a prior taxable year;

(10) 80 percent of royalties, fees, or other like income accrued or received from a foreign operating corporation or a foreign corporation which is part of the same unitary business as the receiving corporation, unless the income resulting from such payments or accruals is income from sources within the United States as defined in subtitle A, chapter 1, subchapter N, part 1, of the Internal Revenue Code;

(11) income or gains from the business of mining as defined in section 290.05, subdivision 1, clause (a), that are not subject to Minnesota franchise tax;

(12) the amount of disability access expenditures in the taxable year which are not allowed to be deducted or capitalized under section 44(d)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(13) the amount of qualified research expenses not allowed for federal income tax purposes under section 280C(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, but only to the extent that the amount exceeds the amount of the credit allowed under section 290.068;

(14) the amount of salary expenses not allowed for federal income tax purposes due to claiming the Indian employment credit under section 45A(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(15) for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2008, the amount of the federal small ethanol producer credit allowed under section 40(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code which is included in gross income under section 87 of the Internal Revenue Code;

(16) for a corporation whose foreign sales corporation, as defined in section 922 of the Internal Revenue Code, constituted a foreign operating corporation during any taxable year ending before January 1, 1995, and a return was filed by August 15, 1996, claiming the deduction under section 290.21, subdivision 4, for income received from

the foreign operating corporation, an amount equal to 1.23 multiplied by the amount of income excluded under section 114 of the Internal Revenue Code, provided the income is not income of a foreign operating company;

(17) any decrease in subpart F income, as defined in section 952(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, for the taxable year when subpart F income is calculated without regard to the provisions of Division C, title III, section 303(b) of Public Law 110-343;

(18) in each of the five tax years immediately following the tax year in which an addition is required under subdivision 19c, clause (15), an amount equal to one-fifth of the delayed depreciation. For purposes of this clause, "delayed depreciation" means the amount of the addition made by the taxpayer under subdivision 19c, clause (15). The resulting delayed depreciation cannot be less than zero;

(19) in each of the five tax years immediately following the tax year in which an addition is required under subdivision 19c, clause (16), an amount equal to one-fifth of the amount of the addition; and

(20) to the extent included in federal taxable income, discharge of indebtedness income resulting from reacquisition of business indebtedness included in federal taxable income under section 108(i) of the Internal Revenue Code. This subtraction applies only to the extent that the income was included in net income in a prior year as a result of the addition under section 290.01, subdivision 19c, clause (25).

(21) to the extent included in federal taxable income, the amount of gain on the sale or exchange of small business stock assigned or apportioned to this state. "Small business stock" means an equity interest, held directly or indirectly, in a corporation or partnership when that interest is:

(i) purchased for money or property, not including stock or payment for services;

(ii) purchased after June 30, 2010;

(iii) less than 100 percent in a corporation or less than 50 percent by vote or value in a partnership; and

(iv) in a corporation or partnership that:

(A) is a single legal entity and not part of any unitary business of the taxpayer;

(B) has fewer than 100 employees, or in the case of a corporation or partnership that is part of a unitary business, the unitary business has fewer than 100 employees;

(C) has not issued stock listed on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange, or National Association of Securities Dealers automated quotation system;

(D) in the year of purchase, had more than 50 percent of its property and payroll, as determined under section 290.191, within this state;

(E) in the year of purchase, derived less than $25,000 in gross receipts from rents, interest, dividends, and the sale of intangible investment assets;

(F) is not in a trade or business involving the performance of services in the fields of health, law, engineering, architecture, accounting, actuarial science, performing arts, consulting, athletics, financial services, brokerage services, or any trade or business where the principal asset of the trade or business is the reputation or skill of one or more of its employees;

(G) is not in a trade or business involving banking, insurance, financing, leasing, investing, or similar business;

(H) is not a regulated investment company, real estate investment trust, or real estate mortgage investment conduit;

(I) is not a cooperative; and

(J) did not liquidate its assets in whole or in part for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of this clause.

The small business stock must be held for more than five years to qualify for this subtraction.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 290.06, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Computation, corporations.** The franchise tax imposed upon corporations shall be computed by applying to their taxable income the rate of ~~9.8 percent.~~:

(1) 9.8 percent in taxable year 2010;

(2) 9.3 percent in taxable year 2011;

(3) 8.8 percent in taxable year 2012;

(4) 8.3 percent in taxable year 2013; and

(5) 7.8 percent in taxable years 2014 and thereafter.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2009 Supplement, section 290.06, subdivision 2c, is amended to read:

Subd. 2c. **Schedules of rates for individuals, estates, and trusts.** (a) The income taxes imposed by this chapter upon married individuals filing joint returns and surviving

spouses as defined in section 2(a) of the Internal Revenue Code must be computed by applying to their taxable net income the following schedule of rates:

(1) On the first $25,680, 5.35 percent;

(2) On all over $25,680, but not over $102,030, 7.05 percent;

(3) On all over $102,030, 7.85 percent.

Married individuals filing separate returns, estates, and trusts must compute their income tax by applying the above rates to their taxable income, except that the income brackets will be one-half of the above amounts.

(b) The income taxes imposed by this chapter upon unmarried individuals must be computed by applying to taxable net income the following schedule of rates:

(1) On the first $17,570, 5.35 percent;

(2) On all over $17,570, but not over $57,710, 7.05 percent;

(3) On all over $57,710, 7.85 percent.

(c) The income taxes imposed by this chapter upon unmarried individuals qualifying as a head of household as defined in section 2(b) of the Internal Revenue Code must be computed by applying to taxable net income the following schedule of rates:

(1) On the first $21,630, 5.35 percent;

(2) On all over $21,630, but not over $86,910, 7.05 percent;

(3) On all over $86,910, 7.85 percent.

(d) In lieu of a tax computed according to the rates set forth in this subdivision, the tax of any individual taxpayer whose taxable net income for the taxable year is less than an amount determined by the commissioner must be computed in accordance with tables prepared and issued by the commissioner of revenue based on income brackets of not more than $100. The amount of tax for each bracket shall be computed at the rates set forth in this subdivision, provided that the commissioner may disregard a fractional part of a dollar unless it amounts to 50 cents or more, in which case it may be increased to $1.

(e) An individual who is not a Minnesota resident for the entire year must compute the individual's Minnesota income tax as provided in this subdivision. After the application of the nonrefundable credits provided in this chapter, the tax liability must then be multiplied by a fraction in which:

(1) the numerator is the individual's Minnesota source federal adjusted gross income as defined in section 62 of the Internal Revenue Code and increased by the additions required under section 290.01, subdivision 19a, clauses (1), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (12), (13), (16), and (17), and reduced by the Minnesota assignable portion of the subtraction for United States government interest under section 290.01, subdivision 19b, clause (1), and the subtractions under section 290.01, subdivision 19b, clauses (9), (10), (14), (15),

(16), and (18) to (20), after applying the allocation and assignability provisions of section 290.081, clause (a), or 290.17; and

(2) the denominator is the individual's federal adjusted gross income as defined in section 62 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, increased by the amounts specified in section 290.01, subdivision 19a, clauses (1), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (12), (13), (16), and (17), and reduced by the amounts specified in section 290.01, subdivision 19b, clauses (1), (9), (10), (14), (15), (16), and (18) to (20).

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 290.068, is amended to read:

290.068 CREDIT FOR INCREASING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

Subdivision 1. **Credit allowed.** A corporation, ~~other than~~ partners in a partnership, or shareholders in a corporation treated as an "S" corporation under section 290.9725~~,~~ ~~is~~ are allowed a credit against ~~the portion of~~ the ~~franchise~~ tax computed under section 290.06~~, subdivision 1,~~ for the taxable year equal to:

~~(a)~~ 5 percent ~~of the first $2,000,000~~ of the excess (if any) of

(1) the qualified research expenses for the taxable year, over

(2) the base amount~~; and~~

~~(b) 2.5 percent on all of such excess expenses over $2,000,000~~.

Subd. 2. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(a) "Qualified research expenses" means (i) qualified research expenses and basic research payments as defined in section 41(b) and (e) of the Internal Revenue Code, except it does not include expenses incurred for qualified research or basic research conducted outside the state of Minnesota pursuant to section 41(d) and (e) of the Internal Revenue Code; and (ii) contributions to a nonprofit corporation established and operated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 317A for the purpose of promoting the establishment and expansion of business in this state, provided the contributions are invested by the nonprofit corporation for the purpose of providing funds for small, technologically innovative enterprises in Minnesota during the early stages of their development.

(b) "Qualified research" means qualified research as defined in section 41(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, except that the term does not include qualified research conducted outside the state of Minnesota.

(c) "Base amount" means base amount as defined in section 41(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, except that the average annual gross receipts must be calculated using Minnesota sales or receipts under section 290.191 and the definitions contained in clauses (a) and (b) shall apply. If a taxpayer does not have records to substantiate the aggregate qualified research expenses for the taxable years beginning after December 31, 1983, and before January 1, 1989, to compute the base amount, and is not a start-up company to which Internal Revenue Code, section 41(c)(3)(B) applies, the corporation is permitted to use a fixed-base percentage of 16 percent.

Subd. 3. **Limitation; carryover.** (a)(1) The credit for ~~the~~ a taxable year beginning before January 1, 2012, shall not exceed the liability for tax. "Liability for tax" for purposes of this section means the tax imposed under section 290.06, subdivision 1, for the taxable year reduced by the sum of the nonrefundable credits allowed under this chapter.

(2) In the case of a corporation which is a partner in a partnership, the credit allowed for the taxable year shall not exceed the lesser of the amount determined under clause (1) for the taxable year or an amount (separately computed with respect to the corporation's interest in the trade or business or entity) equal to the amount of tax attributable to that portion of taxable income which is allocable or apportionable to the corporation's interest in the trade or business or entity.

(b) If the amount of the credit determined under this section for any taxable year exceeds the limitation under clause (a), the excess shall be a research credit carryover to each of the 15 succeeding taxable years. The entire amount of the excess unused credit for the taxable year shall be carried first to the earliest of the taxable years to which the credit may be carried and then to each successive year to which the credit may be carried. The amount of the unused credit which may be added under this clause shall not exceed the taxpayer's liability for tax less the research credit for the taxable year.

Subd. 4. **Partnerships and S corporations.** In the case of partnerships the credit shall be allocated in the same manner provided by section 41(f)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In the case of shareholders in S corporations the credit shall be allocated in the same manner as provided by section 1366(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Subd. 5. **Adjustments; acquisitions and dispositions.** If a taxpayer acquires or disposes of the major portion of a trade or business or the major portion of a separate unit of a trade or business in a transaction with another taxpayer, the taxpayer's qualified research expenses and base amount are adjusted in the same manner provided by section 41(f)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Subd. 6. **Credit to be refundable.** If the amount of credit allowed in this section for qualified research expenses incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2011, exceeds the taxpayer's tax liability under section 290.02 or 290.03, the commissioner shall refund the excess amount. This credit must be used before any other credit allowed under this chapter.

Subd. 7. **Appropriation.** An amount sufficient to pay the refunds required by this section is appropriated to the commissioner from the general fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2011.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2009 Supplement, section 290.091, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Definitions.** For purposes of the tax imposed by this section, the following terms have the meanings given:

(a) "Alternative minimum taxable income" means the sum of the following for the taxable year:

(1) the taxpayer's federal alternative minimum taxable income as defined in section 55(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(2) the taxpayer's itemized deductions allowed in computing federal alternative minimum taxable income, but excluding:

(i) the charitable contribution deduction under section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code;

(ii) the medical expense deduction;

(iii) the casualty, theft, and disaster loss deduction; and

(iv) the impairment-related work expenses of a disabled person;

(3) for depletion allowances computed under section 613A(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to each property (as defined in section 614 of the Internal Revenue Code), to the extent not included in federal alternative minimum taxable income, the excess of the deduction for depletion allowable under section 611 of the Internal Revenue Code for the taxable year over the adjusted basis of the property at the end of the taxable year (determined without regard to the depletion deduction for the taxable year);

(4) to the extent not included in federal alternative minimum taxable income, the amount of the tax preference for intangible drilling cost under section 57(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code determined without regard to subparagraph (E);

(5) to the extent not included in federal alternative minimum taxable income, the amount of interest income as provided by section 290.01, subdivision 19a, clause (1); and

(6) the amount of addition required by section 290.01, subdivision 19a, clauses (7) to (9), (12), (13), (16), and (17);

less the sum of the amounts determined under the following:

(1) interest income as defined in section 290.01, subdivision 19b, clause (1);

(2) an overpayment of state income tax as provided by section 290.01, subdivision 19b, clause (2), to the extent included in federal alternative minimum taxable income;

(3) the amount of investment interest paid or accrued within the taxable year on indebtedness to the extent that the amount does not exceed net investment income, as defined in section 163(d)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. Interest does not include amounts deducted in computing federal adjusted gross income; and

(4) amounts subtracted from federal taxable income as provided by section 290.01, subdivision 19b, clauses (6), (9) to (16), and (18) to (20).

In the case of an estate or trust, alternative minimum taxable income must be computed as provided in section 59(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(b) "Investment interest" means investment interest as defined in section 163(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(c) "Net minimum tax" means the minimum tax imposed by this section.

(d) "Regular tax" means the tax that would be imposed under this chapter (without regard to this section and section 290.032), reduced by the sum of the nonrefundable credits allowed under this chapter.

(e) "Tentative minimum tax" equals 6.4 percent of alternative minimum taxable income after subtracting the exemption amount determined under subdivision 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 290.0921, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Tax imposed.** In addition to the taxes computed under this chapter without regard to this section, the franchise tax imposed on corporations includes a tax equal to the excess, if any, for the taxable year of:

(1)(i) 5.8 percent of Minnesota alternative minimum taxable income in taxable year 2010; ~~over~~

(ii) 5.5 percent of Minnesota alternative minimum taxable income in taxable year 2011;

(iii) 5.2 percent of Minnesota alternative minimum taxable income in taxable year 2012;

(iv) 4.9 percent of Minnesota alternative minimum taxable income in taxable year 2013; and

(v) 4.6 percent of Minnesota alternative minimum taxable income in taxable year 2014 and thereafter;

over

(2) the tax imposed under section 290.06, subdivision 1, for the taxable year without regard to this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 290.0921, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Alternative minimum taxable income.** "Alternative minimum taxable income" is Minnesota net income as defined in section 290.01, subdivision 19, and includes the adjustments and tax preference items in sections 56, 57, 58, and 59(d), (e), (f), and (h) of the Internal Revenue Code. If a corporation files a separate company Minnesota tax return, the minimum tax must be computed on a separate company basis. If a corporation is part of a tax group filing a unitary return, the minimum tax must be computed on a unitary basis. The following adjustments must be made.

(1) For purposes of the depreciation adjustments under section 56(a)(1) and 56(g)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code, the basis for depreciable property placed in service in a taxable year beginning before January 1, 1990, is the adjusted basis for federal income tax purposes, including any modification made in a taxable year under section 290.01, subdivision 19e, or Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 290.09, subdivision 7, paragraph (c).

For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2000, the amount of any remaining modification made under section 290.01, subdivision 19e, or Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 290.09, subdivision 7, paragraph (c), not previously deducted is a depreciation allowance in the first taxable year after December 31, 2000.

(2) The portion of the depreciation deduction allowed for federal income tax purposes under section 168(k) of the Internal Revenue Code that is required as an addition under section 290.01, subdivision 19c, clause (15), is disallowed in determining alternative minimum taxable income.

(3) The subtraction for depreciation allowed under section 290.01, subdivision 19d, clause (18), is allowed as a depreciation deduction in determining alternative minimum taxable income.

(4) The alternative tax net operating loss deduction under sections 56(a)(4) and 56(d) of the Internal Revenue Code does not apply.

(5) The special rule for certain dividends under section 56(g)(4)(C)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code does not apply.

(6) The special rule for dividends from section 936 companies under section 56(g)(4)(C)(iii) does not apply.

(7) The tax preference for depletion under section 57(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code does not apply.

(8) The tax preference for intangible drilling costs under section 57(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code must be calculated without regard to subparagraph (E) and the subtraction under section 290.01, subdivision 19d, clause (4).

(9) The tax preference for tax exempt interest under section 57(a)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code does not apply.

(10) The tax preference for charitable contributions of appreciated property under section 57(a)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code does not apply.

(11) For purposes of calculating the tax preference for accelerated depreciation or amortization on certain property placed in service before January 1, 1987, under section 57(a)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, the deduction allowable for the taxable year is the deduction allowed under section 290.01, subdivision 19e.

For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2000, the amount of any remaining modification made under section 290.01, subdivision 19e, not previously deducted is a depreciation or amortization allowance in the first taxable year after December 31, 2004.

(12) For purposes of calculating the adjustment for adjusted current earnings in section 56(g) of the Internal Revenue Code, the term "alternative minimum taxable income" as it is used in section 56(g) of the Internal Revenue Code, means alternative minimum taxable income as defined in this subdivision, determined without regard to the adjustment for adjusted current earnings in section 56(g) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(13) For purposes of determining the amount of adjusted current earnings under section 56(g)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, no adjustment shall be made under section 56(g)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code with respect to (i) the amount of foreign dividend gross-up subtracted as provided in section 290.01, subdivision 19d, clause (1), (ii) the amount of refunds of income, excise, or franchise taxes subtracted as provided in section 290.01, subdivision 19d, clause (9), or (iii) the amount of royalties, fees or other like income subtracted as provided in section 290.01, subdivision 19d, clause (10).

(14) Alternative minimum taxable income excludes the income from operating in a job opportunity building zone as provided under section 469.317.

(15) Alternative minimum taxable income excludes the income from operating in a biotechnology and health sciences industry zone as provided under section 469.337.

(16) Alternative minimum taxable income excludes the income from operating in an international economic development zone as provided under section 469.326.

(17) Alternative minimum taxable income includes the subtraction for small business stock as provided under section 290.01, subdivision 19d, clause (21).

Items of tax preference must not be reduced below zero as a result of the modifications in this subdivision.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

ARTICLE 4

LAWSUIT REFORM

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 8.31, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

Subd. 3a. **Private remedies.** In addition to the remedies otherwise provided by law and subject to subdivision 3d, any person injured by a violation of any of the laws referred to in subdivision 1 may bring a civil action and recover damages, together with costs and disbursements, including costs of investigation and reasonable attorney's fees, and receive other equitable relief as determined by the court. The court may, as appropriate, enter a consent judgment or decree without the finding of illegality. In any action brought by the attorney general pursuant to this section, the court may award any of the remedies allowable under this subdivision.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 8.31, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 3d. **Private remedies for Unlawful Trade Practices Act, Prevention of Consumer Fraud Act, False Statement in Advertisement Act.** Civil actions pursuant to subdivision 3a for violations of the Unlawful Trade Practices Act (sections 325D.09 to 325D.16), Prevention of Consumer Fraud Act (sections 325F.68 to 325F.70), or the False Statement in Advertisement Act (section 325F.67) or other laws against false or fraudulent advertising may be brought only by natural persons who purchase or lease goods, services, or real estate for personal, family, or household purposes. Each such person seeking to recover damages for violations of these sections, either in an individual action, a class action, or any other type of action, shall be required to plead and prove on an individual

basis that the deceptive act or practice caused the person to enter into the transaction that resulted in the damages. No award of damages in an action covered by this subdivision may be made without proof that the person or persons seeking damages suffered an actual out-of-pocket loss. The term "out-of-pocket loss" means an amount of money equal to the difference between the amount paid by the consumer for the good or service and the actual market value of the good or service that the consumer actually received.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 3. **[540.19] CLASS ACTIONS; INTERLOCUTORY APPEAL.**

A court's order certifying a class action, refusing to certify a class action, or denying a motion to decertify a class action is appealable in the same manner as a final order or judgment. While an appeal under this subdivision is pending, all discovery and other proceedings in the district court must be stayed.

EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION. This section is effective July 1, 2010.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 541.05, is amended to read:

541.05 VARIOUS CASES, SIX YEARS.

Subdivision 1. **Six-year limitation.** Except where the Uniform Commercial Code or section 541.077 otherwise prescribes, the following actions shall be commenced within six years:

(1) upon a contract or other obligation, express or implied, as to which no other limitation is expressly prescribed;

(2) upon a liability created by statute, other than those arising upon a penalty or forfeiture or where a shorter period is provided by section 541.07;

(3) for a trespass upon real estate;

(4) for taking, detaining, or injuring personal property, including actions for the specific recovery thereof;

(5) for criminal conversation, or for any other injury to the person or rights of another, not arising on contract, and not hereinafter enumerated;

(6) for relief on the ground of fraud, in which case the cause of action shall not be deemed to have accrued until the discovery by the aggrieved party of the facts constituting the fraud;

(7) to enforce a trust or compel a trustee to account, where the trustee has neglected to discharge the trust, or claims to have fully performed it, or has repudiated the trust relation;

(8) against sureties upon the official bond of any public officer, whether of the state or of any county, town, school district, or a municipality therein; in which case the limitation shall not begin to run until the term of such officer for which the bond was given shall have expired;

(9) for damages caused by a dam, used for commercial purposes; or

(10) for assault, battery, false imprisonment, or other tort resulting in personal injury, if the conduct that gives rise to the cause of action also constitutes domestic abuse as defined in section 518B.01.

Subd. 2. **Strict liability.** Unless otherwise provided by law, any action based on the strict liability of the defendant and arising from the manufacture, sale, use or consumption of a product shall be commenced within ~~four~~ three years.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2010, and applies to actions commenced on or after that date.

Sec. 5. **[541.077] MERCHANT ACTIONS.**

(a) For the purpose of this section, "merchant" means a person who deals in goods or services of the kind, or otherwise holds out as having knowledge or skill peculiar to the practices, goods, or services involved in the transaction or to whom this knowledge or skill may be attributed by the employment of an agent or broker or other intermediary who by occupation holds out as having this knowledge or skill.

(b) An action, whether based on a contract or tort, arising from the furnishing of goods or services by a merchant in the ordinary course of business must be commenced within three years from the date the cause of action accrued.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2010, and applies to actions commenced on or after that date.

Sec. 6. **SEVERABILITY.**

The provisions of this article are severable. If any portion of this article is declared unconstitutional or the application of any part of this act to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remaining portions of the act and their applicability to any person or circumstance shall remain valid and enforceable.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

ARTICLE 5

ENVIRONMENT

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 115.07, is amended to read:

115.07 VIOLATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Obtain permit.** (a) It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any person to construct, install, or operate a disposal system, or any part thereof, until plans ~~therefor shall~~ and specifications for the disposal system have been submitted to the agency, unless the agency ~~shall have waived the~~ waives submission ~~thereof to it~~ of the plans and specifications, and a written permit ~~therefor shall have been~~ for the disposal system is granted by the agency.

(b) If a person who discharges a pollutant into the waters of the state is required by statutes or rules to obtain both a national pollutant discharge elimination system permit and a state disposal system permit and the permit is not for discharges under Minnesota Rules, part 7090.2010, it is unlawful for the person to construct, install, or operate the disposal system, or any part thereof, until plans and specifications for the disposal system have been submitted to the agency, unless the agency waives submission of the plans and specifications. The person is prohibited from discharging a pollutant into the waters of the state until a written permit for the discharge is granted by the agency and plans and specifications for the disposal system have been approved, unless the agency waives the submission of the plans and specifications.

(c) For disposal systems operated on streams with extreme seasonal flows, the agency must allow seasonal permit limits based on a fixed or variable effluent limit when the municipality operating the disposal system requests them and is in compliance with agency water quality standards.

Subd. 3. **Permission for extension.** (a) It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any person to make any change in, addition to, or extension of any existing disposal system or point source, or part thereof, to effect any facility expansion, production increase, or process modification which results in new or increased discharges of pollutants, or to operate such system or point source, or part thereof as so changed, added to, or extended, until plans and specifications therefor shall have been submitted to the agency, unless the agency ~~shall have waived the~~ waives submission ~~thereof to it~~ of the plans and specifications, and a written permit ~~therefor shall have been~~ for the change, addition, or extension is granted by the agency.

(b) If a person who discharges a pollutant into the waters of the state is required by statutes or rules to obtain both a national pollutant discharge elimination system permit and a state disposal system permit and the permit is not for discharges under Minnesota

Rules, part 7090.2010, it is unlawful for the person to change, add to, or extend an existing disposal system or point source, or part thereof, as specified under paragraph (a) until plans and specifications for the change, addition, or extension have been submitted to the agency, unless the agency waives submission of the plans and specifications. The person is prohibited from discharging additional or increased pollutants into the waters of the state until a written permit for the discharge is granted by the agency and plans and specifications for the change, addition, or extension have been approved, unless the agency waives the submission of plans and specifications.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 116D.04, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

Subd. 2a. **When prepared.** Where there is potential for significant environmental effects resulting from any major governmental action, the action shall be preceded by a detailed environmental impact statement prepared by the responsible governmental unit. The environmental impact statement shall be an analytical rather than an encyclopedic document which describes the proposed action in detail, analyzes its significant environmental impacts, discusses appropriate alternatives to the proposed action and their impacts, and explores methods by which adverse environmental impacts of an action could be mitigated. The environmental impact statement shall also analyze those economic, employment and sociological effects that cannot be avoided should the action be implemented. To ensure its use in the decision-making process, the environmental impact statement shall be prepared as early as practical in the formulation of an action. No mandatory environmental impact statement may be required for an ethanol plant, as defined in section 41A.09, subdivision 2a, paragraph (b), that produces less than 125,000,000 gallons of ethanol annually and is located outside of the seven-county metropolitan area.

(a) The board shall by rule establish categories of actions for which environmental impact statements and for which environmental assessment worksheets shall be prepared as well as categories of actions for which no environmental review is required under this section.

(b) The responsible governmental unit shall promptly publish notice of the completion of an environmental assessment worksheet in a manner to be determined by the board and shall provide copies of the environmental assessment worksheet to the board and its member agencies. Comments on the need for an environmental impact statement may be submitted to the responsible governmental unit during a 30 day period following publication of the notice that an environmental assessment worksheet has been completed. The responsible governmental unit's decision on the need for an environmental impact

statement shall be based on the environmental assessment worksheet and the comments received during the comment period, and shall be made within 15 days after the close of the comment period. The board's chair may extend the 15 day period by not more than 15 additional days upon the request of the responsible governmental unit.

(c) An environmental assessment worksheet shall also be prepared for a proposed action whenever material evidence accompanying a petition by not less than 25 individuals, submitted before the proposed project has received final approval by the appropriate governmental units, demonstrates that, because of the nature or location of a proposed action, there may be potential for significant environmental effects. Petitions requesting the preparation of an environmental assessment worksheet shall be submitted to the board. The chair of the board shall determine the appropriate responsible governmental unit and forward the petition to it. A decision on the need for an environmental assessment worksheet shall be made by the responsible governmental unit within 15 days after the petition is received by the responsible governmental unit. The board's chair may extend the 15 day period by not more than 15 additional days upon request of the responsible governmental unit.

(d) Except in an environmentally sensitive location where Minnesota Rules, part 4410.4300, subpart 29, item B, applies, the proposed action is exempt from environmental review under this chapter and rules of the board, if:

(1) the proposed action is:

(i) an animal feedlot facility with a capacity of less than 1,000 animal units; or

(ii) an expansion of an existing animal feedlot facility with a total cumulative capacity of less than 1,000 animal units;

(2) the application for the animal feedlot facility includes a written commitment by the proposer to design, construct, and operate the facility in full compliance with Pollution Control Agency feedlot rules; and

(3) the county board holds a public meeting for citizen input at least ten business days prior to the Pollution Control Agency or county issuing a feedlot permit for the animal feedlot facility unless another public meeting for citizen input has been held with regard to the feedlot facility to be permitted. The exemption in this paragraph is in addition to other exemptions provided under other law and rules of the board.

(e) The board may, prior to final approval of a proposed project, require preparation of an environmental assessment worksheet by a responsible governmental unit selected by the board for any action where environmental review under this section has not been specifically provided for by rule or otherwise initiated.

(f) In determining whether a proposed project has significant potential for environmental effect, the responsible governmental unit may consider the extent to which the environmental effects are subject to mitigation by ongoing public regulatory authority. The responsible governmental unit may rely only on mitigation measures that are specific and that can be reasonably expected to effectively mitigate the identified environmental impacts of the project. If an applicant for a proposed project demonstrates that the project can meet an environmental standard established in state or federal statute or rule, the responsible governmental unit shall conclude that the standard can be reasonably expected to effectively mitigate the specific environmental impact addressed by that standard.

~~(f)~~ (g) An early and open process shall be utilized to limit the scope of the environmental impact statement to a discussion of those impacts, which, because of the nature or location of the project, have the potential for significant environmental effects. The same process shall be utilized to determine the form, content and level of detail of the statement as well as the alternatives which are appropriate for consideration in the statement. In addition, the permits which will be required for the proposed action shall be identified during the scoping process. Further, the process shall identify those permits for which information will be developed concurrently with the environmental impact statement. The board shall provide in its rules for the expeditious completion of the scoping process. The determinations reached in the process shall be incorporated into the order requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

~~(g)~~ (h) Whenever practical, information needed by a governmental unit for making final decisions on permits or other actions required for a proposed project shall be developed in conjunction with the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

~~(h)~~ (i) An environmental impact statement shall be prepared and its adequacy determined within 280 days after notice of its preparation unless the time is extended by consent of the parties or by the governor for good cause. The responsible governmental unit shall determine the adequacy of an environmental impact statement, unless within 60 days after notice is published that an environmental impact statement will be prepared, the board chooses to determine the adequacy of an environmental impact statement. If an environmental impact statement is found to be inadequate, the responsible governmental unit shall have 60 days to prepare an adequate environmental impact statement.

Sec. 3. **RULE AMENDMENT.**

The commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency shall amend Minnesota Rules, part 7001.0030, to comply with the amendments made under section 1. The commissioner may use the good cause exemption under Minnesota Statutes, section 14.388, subdivision

1, clause (3), to adopt the amendment under this section, and Minnesota Statutes, section 14.386, does not apply except as provided under Minnesota Statutes, section 14.388.

APPENDIX
Article locations in 10-5266